VIII

A BILL FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF BROTHELS AND IMMORAL TRAFFIC.

* Mr. K. R. VENKATARAMA AYYAR :—"Sir, I move that leave be granted for referring the Bill[a] for the Suppression of Brothels and Immoral Traffic to a Select Committee composed of more than fifteen members under Standing Order No. 40 (2)."

Mr. C. GOPALA MENON :—"I second it."

The motion was put and carried and permission was granted.

* Mr. K. R. VENKATARAMA AYYAR :—"I now move that the Bill for the Suppression of Brothels and Immoral Traffic be referred to a Select Committee composed of the following members :—

(1) The hon. the Law Member.
(2) Dr. (Mrs.) S. Muthulakshmi Reddi.
(3) Swami A. S. Sahajanandam.
(4) Syed Tajudin Sahib Bahadur.
(5) Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan.
(6) Dr. B. S. Mallayya.
(7) Mr. C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar.
(8) ,, P. Anjaneyulu.
(9) ,, B. Ramachandra Reddi.
(10) Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar.
(11) Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar.
(12) Mr. K. P. Raman Menon.
(13) ,, C. Gopala Menon.
(14) ,, W. O. Wright.
(15) ,, K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar.
(16) The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur.
(17) The hon. the Advocate-General.
(18) Mr. C. B. Cunningham.
(19) ,, L. K. Tulasiram.
(20) Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro.
(21) Rao Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu.
(22) Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan.
(23) Mr. Ramanath Goenka.
(24) The Zamindar of Gollapalli.
(25) Mr. S. Satyamurti.
(26) ,, P. Siva Rao.
(27) ,, Chavadi K. Subrahmanya Pillai.
(28) ,, C. Ramasomayajulu.
(29) ,, V. Ramjee Rao.
(30) ,, K. V. R. Swami."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I do not find these names in the list ?"

* Mr. K. R. VENKATARAMA AYYAR :—

"(31) Rao Sahib L. C. Guruswami.
(32) The hon. the Minister for Public Health and Excise.
(33) Mr. W. P. A. Soundarapandiya Nadar.
(34) ,, Khadir Mohideen Sahib."

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[10th October 1928

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member will kindly resume his seat. He has given a list of 24 names in the first instance and those names are printed in the agenda. He has given notice of another four names by means of an amendment and those names again are in the agenda. I now find yet another list of 6 names added to it. I am afraid that in the motion he is actually making now he is travelling beyond all these lists."

* Mr. K. R. VENKATARAMA AYYAR :—"I shall confine myself . . . .

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member will resume his seat. The motion he is making is out of order." (Laughter.)

* Mr. K. R. VENKATARAMA AYYAR :—"I beg your pardon, Sir . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I said that the motion to refer the Bill to a Select Committee which he made was out of order."

IX

A BILL TO AMEND THE MADRAS CITY MUNICIPAL ACT, 1919.

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"I beg to introduce a Bill [a] to amend the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919, and move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

"Sir, in making this motion I beg to bring to the notice of this House that timber tax was first introduced in the city of Madras in the year 1884, at Rs. 2-8-0 per ton and then there was no provision for any rebate whatsoever. In the year 1889 Mr. Boyson of the Chamber of Commerce, Madras, brought to the notice of the Corporation great handicap to the trade and to the freight of the Port Trust by the levy of this tax by the Corporation on articles which are in transit but are not actually used in the city of Madras. He also brought to their notice that it was a great hardship to the consumers outside the city of Madras and that the trade of Madras would shift to Negapatam or Pondicherry where there was no such impost on timber. On consideration of this, the Government passed an order in 1890 (G.O. No. 10 M., dated 6th January 1891) approving the by-laws for the grant of refund under section 341 of the Act of 1884. The above was incorporated in the amending Act of 1892 as the matter had to be explicitly provided for in the Act. In the Act of 1904 provision for refund was made and the Government timber was exempted from the payment of this tax. In the Act of 1919 the exemption granted to Government timber was withdrawn, but the provision for refund was retained. Since then, Sir, a series of corruption has crept in the rebate of this tax. This is one of the sources of revenue of the Corporation bringing an income of nearly one lakh of rupees every year. From the year 1921 to 1927 the Corporation has been giving away a larger amount in the shape of rebate than the actual amount realized from the timber tax. In 1921-22 (the first year) the collections amounted to Rs. 1,91,108-12-0 and the refunds Rs. 87,155-2-0. In 1922-23 the collections were Rs. 1,77,132-8-0 and the refunds Rs. 83,037-0-5. In 1923-24, the figures were Rs. 1,61,738-12-0 and Rs. 1,40,057. The respective figures for 1924-25 and 1925-26 were Rs. 1,41,501 and Rs. 1,00,491-15-0, and Rs. 1,68,882-8-0 and Rs. 44,555-4-0. In the year 1924, the attention of the then Commissioner Mr. Bower was drawn to this state of affairs by me and he proposed to make certain alterations. As that

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